



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 1542.3B
ASM-33
30 April 94

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1542.3B W/CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: UNITED STATES NAVY/UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TEST PILOT
SCHOOLS

Ref: (a) USNTPSNOTE 1542
(b) AFM 53-19, USAF TPS curriculum
(c) OPNAVINST 3710.7P
(d) MCO P1070.12H, IRAM
(e) MCO P1900.16D, MARCORSEPMAN

Encl: (1) Test Pilot School Application Format

1. Purpose. To delineate specific requirements and promulgate standardized procedures for application to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) and the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School (USAFTPS).

2. Cancellation. MCO 1542.3A.

3. Background

a. The Naval Air Warfare Weapons Divisions at the Naval Air Stations (NAS) China Lake and Point Mugu, California, and the Aircraft Divisions, NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, are responsible for test and evaluation of aircraft, weapons systems, components and related equipment.

b. The USNTPS, NAS Patuxent River, Maryland provides instruction to experienced pilots, flight officers and engineers in the processes and techniques of aircraft and systems test and evaluation. The school investigates and develops new flight test techniques, publishes manuals for use by the aviation test community, and standardizes flight test techniques and project reporting.

c. The USAFTPS, Edwards Air Force Base, California, trains pilots, navigators and engineers to conduct flight tests and evaluation of research-prototype and production aerospace vehicles, systems and weapons. The school develops, implements and conducts the theoretical and applied academics and flying curriculum.

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4. Scope of Instruction

a. The 11 month course of instruction at USNTPS includes concurrent academic and flight syllabi in both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. The curriculum is described in reference (a).

b. The 12 month course of instruction at the USAFTPS emphasizes flight test methods and techniques, including computer simulation in selected USAF aircraft. The curriculum is described in reference (b).

5. Eligibility Criteria

a. Administrative. Applicants must:

(1) be commissioned officers, Regular or Reserve on active duty;

(2) hold the grade of First Lieutenant through Major (see paragraph 5a(5) below);

(3) be a designated Naval Aviator or Naval Flight Officer;

(4) hold a current secret or higher security clearance;

(5) be less than 33 years of age on the class convening date (USAF Test Pilot School only);

(6) agree to a service obligation of 3 years subsequent to completion of TPS.

b. Academic

(1) USAFTPS:

(a) a Bachelor degree in engineering, a physical science or a mathematics field is mandatory;

(2) USNTPS:

(a) a Bachelor Degree in engineering, a physical science, a computer science or mathematics field is highly desirable. At a minimum, the applicant should have successfully completed:

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1 college physics or mechanics (statics and dynamics);

2 college level mathematics through college algebra, differential and integral calculus.

c. Flight and Professional

(1) A current flight physical examination (Medical Service Group I, as defined in reference (c) for Naval Aviators) is required.

(2) Naval Aviators

(a) a total of 1,500 military flight hours (waiverable);

(b) flight experience in various types of aircraft (waiverable).

(c) For rotary-wing aviators

1 designation as a Helicopter Aircraft Commander (HAC) in accordance with reference (c).

2 rotary-wing pilots will receive a fixed-wing refresher course at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas; those individuals can expect to receive TAD orders en route to TPS.

(d) For fixed-wing turboprop aviators

1 designation as an Aircraft Commander.

2 fixed-wing turboprop aviators will receive the USNTPS Preparatory Curriculum at NAS Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Texas; those individuals can expect to receive TAD orders en route to TPS.

(3) Naval Flight Officers. A total of 1,500 military flight hours (waiverable).

6. Waivers. Experience has proven the validity for rigorous eligibility criteria. However, waivers to the foregoing will be considered in exceptional cases and applications, with waiver requests, are encouraged.

7. Application. Applications will be prepared on the Administrative Action Form (NAVMC 10274) in the format shown in enclosure (1). Current selection board-type photographs as outlined in paragraph 2002.1 of reference (d) must be included. The original application will be submitted, via chain of command, to this Headquarters; a copy of the application should be forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD), NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670. Applications may be withdrawn at anytime by written notification to CMC (MMOA-2).

8. Deadline. Applications must be received by CMC (MMOA-2) prior to 1 April (for the classes convening during January of the following year), and by 1 October (for the classes convening during July of the following year). If not initially selected, applications will be retained and considered for subsequent classes; however, applications should be updated at least each year or immediately following any significant changes in the applicant's qualifications.

9. Commanding officer's endorsement. The commanding officer's endorsement may weigh heavily in the selection process. The endorsement should be an evaluation of the applicant's airmanship, intelligence, initiative and motivation. In cases where the endorsing officer has no firsthand exposure to the applicant's flying ability, a letter of evaluation or memorandum endorsement should be solicited from one or more officers who have supervised the applicant in an operational flying billet within the past three years.

10. Visit. Applicants are invited to visit the Naval Air Warfare Center, NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, to observe the flight test processes, the TPS curriculum and to talk with Marine test pilots. Visits can be arranged through the Commanding Officer, MAD, NAS Patuxent River, Maryland (DSN 326-1427). Additionally, test pilots currently serving in the FMF are an equally valuable source of information about test pilot duty.

11. Selection. The TPS Selection Board will convene semiannually to select officers for the test pilot or NFO courses at test pilot schools. The numbers selected are based on anticipated future testing requirements at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons and Aircraft Divisions in conjunction with Marine Corps officer strength in each MOS at the MAD. Those officers selected for TPS will be notified via ALMAR. Unsuccessful termination of a TPS course obligates an officer to two years active duty in accordance with reference (e).

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*12. Acquisition Workforce Program. Individuals selected to attend a TPS will receive an MOS designation of 9957 (Acquisition Professional Candidate) upon completion of school. Individuals who successfully complete their follow-on tour at a Test Directorate are eligible to apply for the MOS 9958 (Acquisition Management Officer).

*13. Naval Post Graduate Cooperative (COOP) Program

a. In conjunction with USNTPS, the COOP is a graduate degree program designed to fulfill Marine Corps Acquisition Test Pilot requirements. The eligibility/selection criteria is the same as the NTPS with one exception: COOP applicants must possess a Bachelor Degree in either aerodynamic engineering or mechanical engineering with a solid Grade Point Average (GPA).

b. Selectees will receive the following:

(1) five quarters of instruction at the Naval Post Graduate (NPG) School, Monterey, CA.


(2) flight refresher training in their primary MOS aircraft (CAT IV) at the Fleet Readiness Squadron;

(3) four quarters of instruction at NTPS;

c. Upon completion of NTPS, selectees will receive an MOS designation of 9957 and complete a follow-on tour in an acquisition Test Pilot billet. Selectees are highly encouraged to apply for MOS 9958 once they have completed two years in an acquisition related billet.

14. Action. Commanding officers are requested to make wide dissemination of the contents of this Order and to encourage well qualified officers to apply.

14. Reserve Applicability. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.


H. W. BLOT
By direction

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-0001

MCO 1542.3B CH 1
ASM-33
27 Feb 95

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1542.3B CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: UNITES STATES NAVY/UNITES STATES AIR FORCE TEST PILOT
SCHOOLS

Encl: (1) New page insert to MCO 1542.3B

1. Purpose. To transmit new page insert to the basic Order.
2. Action. Remove page 5 of the basic Order and replace with page 5 contained in the enclosure.
3. Change Notification. Paragraphs denoted by an asterisk (*) symbol contain changes not previously published.
4. Filing Instructions. File this Change transmittal immediately behind the signature page of the basic Order.


H. W. BLOT
By direction

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distribution is unlimited.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION (5215)

FORM 1542.3B, 4-75
 Previous editions are obsolete.
 GPO: 1975-500-000-0/1: PS (10)

1. ACTION NO.	2. SSIC/FILE NO.
3. DATE	

TEST PILOT SCHOOL APPLICATION FORMAT

4. FROM (Grade, Name, SSN, MOS, or OO, Para. O, etc.) (Applicant)		5. ORGANIZATION AND STATION (Complete address) (Applicant's Organization)	
6. VIA (As required) (Chain of Command)		7. NATURE OF ACTION/SUBJECT Test Pilot School; application for	
TO: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA-2) Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps 2 Navy Annex Washington, D.C. 20380-0001		8. COPY TO (As required) Commanding Officer Marine Aviation Detachment NAS Patuxent River, MD 20670	
10. REFERENCE OR AUTHORITY (If applicable) (a) MCO 1542.3B (b)		11. ENCLOSURES (If any) (1) Photographs (2) Certificates of Completion	
12. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (Reduce to minimum wording—type name of originator and sign 2 lines below text)			
1. Date designated military pilot/NFO.			
2. Security clearance, source and date			
3. Date of birth:			
4. I agree not to resign (or to request Standby or Ready Reserve status) for 3 years after graduation from TPS.			
5. Academic Resume (attach certificates of completion or transcripts)			
a. Degree held Date conferred Major College/University			
b. Other higher level education courses (undergraduate, correspondence courses, night school).			
Course Title School Date Grade			
6. Medical Service Group _____, date of last physical _____			
7. Flight hours (pilot time only for pilots, special crew time for NFO's).			
a. Training command (only) subtotal.			

13. PROCESSING ACTION: Complete processing action in item 12 or on reverse. Do not use number stamp in case of particular.

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b. Since designation, breakdown by types of aircraft (group all series of each model together, e.g., F/A-18A/C/D, AV-8B, CH-46).

	<u>Model Aircraft</u>	<u>Hours</u>
c. Total, all years, i.e., (7a) + (7b).		
d. Total jet pilot hours.		
e. For Rotary-wing pilots.		

(1) HAC qualified in:

	<u>Model Aircraft</u>	<u>Date</u>
(2) Total fixed-wing pilot hours.		
(3) Source of training (Navy or Army).		

8. TPS preference (USNTPS or USAFTPS).

9. Remarks (Designations, qualifications, etc.).

Commanding Officer's Endorsement

ENCLOSURE (1)

